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Attorney Docket No.: 38494-00146D

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/796,431

Examiner: Jastrzab, Krisanne Marie

Applicant(s): Avant

Art Unit:

1744

Filed:

March 9, 2004

Customer No.:

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Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT FILED UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed April 14, 2006, and further to a telephonic interview conducted with the Examiner on July 11, 2006, the Applicant provides the following:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper. Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 9 of this paper and includes an attached replacement sheet.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 502509.

In the event that an extension of time is required or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 502509.